



BOURNE  
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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# ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and the

Public Health Inspector

For the Year 1958

## **PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE**

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### **Chairman :**

Councillor Dr. G. HOLLOWAY, C.C.

### **Members :**

Councillor J. BURCHNELL

„ L. R. W. DAY, M.A.

„ DR. J. A. GALLETLY, C.C.

„ J. R. GRUMMITT

„ J. K. MASON

„ W. H. SCOTNEY

„ MRS. F. E. TIPLER

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### **Medical Officer of Health :**

H. ELLIS SMITH, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

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### **Public Health Inspector :**

L. W. BROWN, M.R.S.H.

# BOURNE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1958

To the Chairman and Members of  
the Bourne Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Tipler and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my Fifth Annual Report on the Vital Statistics, Health and Sanitary Conditions of the Urban District.

### STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Area in acres	...	...	...	...	...	10,103
Population—Registrar General's Figure	1958	...	...	...	...	5,010
Number of Inhabited Houses	...	...	...	...	...	1,701
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	£55,054
Sum represented by a rd. rate	...	...	...	...	...	£218

### VITAL STATISTICS

#### Extract from Vital Statistics for the Year 1958

Note Birth and Death Rates.

As the age and sex distribution of the population in different areas materially affects both the Birth and Death rates of these areas, comparability factors allowing for this are issued by the Registrar General for each Local Government Unit. These factors may be used for calculating what are termed in this Report as Nett Rates and fairer comparisons are obtained if the latter are used when comparing rates with those of any other area (when these have been similarly adjusted) or with rates for the Country as a whole.

These factors for Birth and Deaths in respect of Bourne U.D. are 0.99 and 0.93 respectively. The corresponding figures when multiplied by the Crude Rate (that is, for Births or Deaths as the case may be) will give the Nett Rate.

	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Total Live and Still Births	45	32	77
Live Births	45	31	76
Legitimate	43	31	74
Illegitimate	2	—	2

Crude live birth rate per 1,000 of estimated population	...	15.17
Nett live birth rate per 1,000 of estimated population	...	15.02
Rate for England and Wales	...	16.4
Illegitimate Live Births per cent. of total live births	...	2.63%

	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Total Still Births	—	1	1
Legitimate	—	1	1
Illegitimate	0	0	0
Still birth rate per 1,000 live and still births	...	...	12.99
Rate of England and Wales	...	...	21.6

	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Deaths	34	29	63
Crude death rate per 1,000 of estimated population	...	...	12.57
Nett death rate per 1,000 of estimated population	...	...	11.69
Rate of England and Wales	...	...	11.7
Infant Mortality (i.e. Deaths of Infants under the age of one year):			

	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
No. of deaths	1	0	1
Legitimate	1	0	1
Illegitimate	0	0	0
Rate per 1,000 of live births	...	...	13.16
Rate of England and Wales	...	...	22.5
Legitimate Infantile Mortality Rate	...	...	13.51
Illegitimate Infantile Mortality Rate	...	...	Nil
No death occurred in the neo-natal period, (i.e. under 4 weeks of age).			
Neo natal mortality Rate is	...	...	Nil

**Maternal Mortality** (i.e. Deaths due to Pregnancy and Childbirth or abortion): Nil.

The Birth Rate at 15.02 per thousand of the population is only slightly less than that for England and Wales as a whole.

The Death Rate at 11.69 was the same as for the Country at large.

The natural increase, that is excess of live births over deaths, was 13.

The Infantile Mortality rate for England and Wales for the fourth year in succession was the lowest ever previously recorded at 22.5 per thousand live births. Bourne improved on this with a figure of 13.16.

In all these comparisons it must be borne in mind however that with the small total numbers involved a small increase or decrease is reflected in a big variation in the Rate.

## CAUSES OF DEATH

	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Tuberculosis respiratory ... ..	—	—	—
Tuberculosis other ... ..	—	I	I
Malignant neoplasm, stomach ... ..	I	I	2
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ... ..	2	—	2
Malignant neoplasm, uterus ... ..	—	I	I
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	5	3	8
Vascular lesions of the nervous system ... ..	4	4	8
Coronary disease, angina ... ..	2	5	7
Hypertension, Heart disease ... ..	I	—	I
Other heart disease ... ..	6	9	15
Other circulatory disease ... ..	I	—	I
Influenza ... ..	2	I	3
Pneumonia ... ..	I	2	3
Nephritis and nephrosis ... ..	I	—	I
Hyperplasia of prostate ... ..	2	—	2
Other defined and ill-defined diseases ... ..	3	2	5
Congenital malformations ... ..	I	—	I
Suicide ... ..	—	—	I
Other than vehicle accidents ... ..	I	—	I

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Cardio Vascular diseases (32) were the principal causes of death accounting for a half and, of these, seven were due to Coronary Disease and angina. It may not be inopportune to make a reference to the increasing incidence of this disease of modern Western Civilisation. Diet may well play an important part in its aetiology and a curtailment of fats of animal origin among those who have had a coronary attack or who have a family history of this degenerative disease is a wise precautionary step. Again it is unwise to eat in excess of energy requirements in middle and later life and also adequate exercise is important, particularly for those who follow sedentary occupations. I would point out that sitting behind an internal combustion engine does not constitute adequate exercise however exhausting it may in fact prove to be in reality. The cultivation of hobbies and wide interests is also a release from the strains of life to which all but the very few are subjected.

Malignant Growths resumed their now customary second place as Causes of death (12). Carcinoma of the bronchus exacted a toll of two and again I plead that the young should by every possible legitimate means be persuaded from starting to smoke, at least until 4: Benzpyrene and other known carcinogens have been eliminated from tobacco smoke or rendered innocent. For

the present it would be wise to consider My Lady Nicotine in the same light as some famous ladies of the past, that is possessed of indubitable charms but fatal attractions—a modern “femme fatale.”

Three deaths were caused by the haemophilis Influenza Virus (Asian Flu) and proved that this variant was more than usually aggressive and potent.

## **HEALTH SERVICES OF THE AREA**

### **Nursing in the Home**

Under the County Council Scheme, there are two District Nurse Midwives.

### **Home Helps**

Home Helps are provided by the County Council in approved cases. The Local Headquarters are at the North Street Clinic, Bourne. Open Mondays and Fridays from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. and Wednesdays 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

The proposed night sitter up service has attracted no recruits to its ranks, but on the other hand there has been no request for this service either.

### **Welfare Food Service**

North Street Clinic:

Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays 1.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.

Thursdays 10 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. and 1.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.

Saturdays 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

### **Health Visiting**

Under the County Council Scheme, one full-time Visitor is employed for the work within the Urban District and she also covers some of the surrounding area.

### **Ambulance Service**

The Ambulance Service during the year adopted the Radio control system which provided for a much more elastic use of the available resources. 2 Ambulances and two dual purpose vehicles were stationed at Bourne. As usual all the demands made upon it were efficiently met.

### **Infant Welfare and School Clinics**

An Infant Welfare Centre is provided by the County Council at the National School, North Street, Bourne, on alternate Thursdays, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. A school clinic is held on the same premises each Thursday morning.

Regular Ophthalmic, Dental, Physiotherapy, Speech and Psychotherapy sessions were also held as part of the School Health Service.



Free Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Poliomyelitis Immunisation is provided by the General Medical Practitioners under the County Council Scheme as also is Vaccination against Small-pox. These services are also provided at the Infant Welfare Clinic, North Street.

### Hospital Services

Hospital Services are provided by the East Anglian Regional Hospital Board who control the Butterfield Hospital and the Hospital for Diseases of the Chest in Bourne. St. Peter's Hospital for Mental Defectives however comes within the jurisdiction of the Sheffield Regional Hospital Board.

A Chest diseases clinic is held at the Bourne Chest Hospital each Thursday afternoon under Dr. Bernard Royce, Consulting Chest Physician.

### Venereal Diseases

Clinics are held at the Out-patients Department, Memorial Hospital, Peterborough, under Dr. N. A. Ross.

Monday, Wednesday and Thursday, 5.30—7 p.m.

Tuesday 10.30—12 noon.

### Laboratory Facilities

Bacteriological investigations are carried out by the Public Health Laboratory at Peterborough under Dr. H. Fulton. The service includes examination of milk and water samples and general bacteriological examinations for the Medical Practitioners and the Public Health Department.

## PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

	Diphtheria	Puerperal Pyrexia	Pneumonia	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Measles	Whooping Cough	Erysipelas	Dysentery	Scarlet Fever	Acute Poliomyelitis	Cerebro Spinal Fever	Paratyphoid Fever	Food Poisoning	Total
Under 1 year	-	-	-	-	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7
1—2	-	-	2	-	19	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	22
3—4	-	-	2	-	28	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	2	35
5—9	-	-	-	-	72	-	-	2	11	-	-	-	1	86
9—15	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	1	6
15—20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	3
20—35	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
35—45	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
45—65	-	-	3	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
65 and over	-	-	5	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Total	-	-	13	-	128	-	3	4	17	-	-	-	8	173
Admitted into Hospital	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2

During the year 173 cases of infectious diseases were notified, excluding Tuberculosis, which appears separately. The corresponding figure in 1957 was 89 and in 1956 there were 39. The majority (128) of these were due to measles which spread in its usual invasive way throughout the susceptible population. It caused disruption in school attendance but fortunately was mild and in no instance was admission to hospital required. The streptococcal group of diseases accounted for 20 compared with 4 in 1957 and 17 in 1956. There is an anomalous position in regard to the notification of scarlet fever as this manifestation of the protean streptococcus is notifiable whereas the streptococcal sore throat caused by the same organism with similar symptoms of sore throat, pyrexia and perhaps vomiting, but without the rash is not. Gone are the dread complications which attended it in former years and one wonders whether much is to be gained by continuing it among the compulsorily notifiable diseases.

Acute Poliomyelitis was again conspicuous by its absence this year, giving 8 consecutive years of freedom from this greatly feared disease. Anti-poliomyelitis vaccination, a rather puny infant last year, grew into a lusty youngster and the demand for protection was most encouraging throughout the age groups which were entitled to it. The Community's thanks are due to the Medical Practitioners of Bourne who worked so hard to meet the requests as expeditiously as possible, in spite of all their other work. I would like however to mention that while vaccination is a tremendous step forward in control and while it may eventually subdue the disease, as Diphtheria has been, yet meantime the defence of good personal, food and domestic hygiene and the avoidance of stuffy crowded atmospheres when the virus is about is as applicable as ever it was.

The thirteen cases of Pneumonia were mostly attributable to the Asian Flu virus which continued to be widespread until the late Spring and which additionally caused three deaths.

There were no cases of Diphtheria, making eleven years of freedom. This helps to build up a generation who know nothing of the disease and who are by virtue of their freedom rather apathetic about making sure that all children are immunised against it and so keeping up the herd immunity in which safety lies.

### **Food Poisoning**

There were 8 notified cases of Food Poisoning in the early summer months and in addition three other cases were found to be infected with salmonella-typhimurium. Fifteen families were implicated and 64 swabs were taken. The actual source of the contamination was not found. These numbers give little idea of the disruption to the normal life of the families concerned, the



time involved in the following up of clues and the expense to the community which an episode of this nature causes. Any lapse in the hygiene of food preparation and protection or in personal hygiene can exact a very disproportionate price on the reckoning day. Good hygiene is no less important in the home than in a food business.

## TUBERCULOSIS

### NEW CASES AND MORTALITY IN 1958

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
15—25	—	I	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	I
45—55	I	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
67	—	I	—	—	—	—	—	—

Three new cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified during the year, but fortunately no deaths were attributed to this cause. There was also one case of non-pulmonary infection. While these numbers are in themselves small they give rise to little cause for complacency and still less for any sanguine hope that the abolition of human tuberculosis is just around the corner.

So much is heard of Poliomyelitis in these days that this less spectacular, but no less crippling disease is pushed out of the headlines. As already mentioned the last case of Acute Poliomyelitis in Bourne was in 1950, but during the same space of time back reports show that 29 Pulmonary and 6 Non-Pulmonary cases of Tuberculosis have been notified.

It is against this background that the visit of the Mass Radiography unit to Bourne is so welcome early next year and that every effort will be made to ensure the success of the Community Survey on Scandinavian lines which it is hoped to carry out on this occasion. An endeavour will be made to get as many of those in the older age groups to come along as possible. It is so often there that the reservoir of infection lies and the grandparents may infect their grandchildren in all innocence. Important as these Radiography Surveys are, of equal importance is the painstaking follow-up and surveillance of known cases and their contacts over the years at Chest Clinic, Surgery and at Home. I suggest that if the Health Visitor who is responsible for the domiciliary surveillance had access to the Chest Clinic she would be in a very much stronger position to watch, to advise and to play her part in the home. Some knowledge on her part of the extent and course of the disease would, I feel, make her visits much more rewarding to all.

There are no short cuts to eradication of Tuberculosis from the Community.

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

The water supply is obtained from the Lincolnshire Lime stone by means of 13 inch and 36 inch bores. The supply has been satisfactory in both quantity and quality. It is chlorinated as a routine and is obtained from the Spalding U.D.C., under very favourable terms. The daily consumption in December 1958 was 164,500 gallons, averaging 32.83 gallons per head per day.

Negotiations have been going on during the year between the Councils of the Bourne Urban District, the Spalding Urban District, South Kesteven Rural District, Spalding Rural District, East Elloe Rural District and Boston Rural District for the formation of a South Lincolnshire Water Board. This Board would be responsible for the supply and distribution of water throughout the six areas and perhaps further afield.

The inevitability of Regional Water Boards must be accepted as an instrument of Government Policy for the safeguarding of a very great National asset—a pure wholesome water supply. With National demands for water ever increasing for all purposes from Atomic Piles to Zymosis it was rational that there should be a National policy in respect of it and in all probability an eventual National Water Grid system.

There is no doubt that in the future water supplies in Bourne will cost more than the unrealistic figure of the past, but I am convinced that thoughtful people will see that the advantages to the Nation as a whole are unquestionable. Looking ahead, is there a chance that the water supplies may one day be less hard on the one hand and contain an optimum amount of fluorine for dental preservation on the other?

By the end of the year the new trunk sewer in North Street and its tributaries had been completed, with the exclusion of surface rain water from the new system, and the road had been reinstated. Thus were successfully completed works which had caused a substantial inconvenience to road users and householders alike. This was borne with tolerance by all in the knowledge that it was to achieve a great future asset for the town. The sewage works themselves were nearing completion also and the time was approaching when they would be operating to ensure an acceptable final effluent and to mark a new era in the Council's sewage disposal System.

The Swimming bath provided by the Bourne United Charities continued to be a very popular amenity, though the Summer's weather was not entirely in its favour. Break point chlorination is used and the water is aerated by a cascade. Samples submitted for bacteriological examination during the season gave satisfactory results. A little difficulty from algal growths was experienced from time to time.

In last year's report I found it necessary to comment on the prevalence of litter at certain times and places in the town. Whether due to the threat of bigger penalties for disregard of the aesthetic rules, the positioning of litter receptacles at strategic points or an increasing civic pride, this problem seems less than it was previously, only to give way to that produced by the pigeon population.

## HOUSING

Numbers of Council houses at 31st December, 1958—485.

Number of Council houses built during the year ended 31st December, 1958—9 bungalows.

Number of private houses built during the year—19.

Number of Improvement Grants given—2 from 2 applications.

Number on waiting list for Council houses—224.

The Council operate a Points Scheme for housing applicants, and advancement on the waiting list is given where health grounds are claimed and proven. Eleven such cases were investigated during the year and I would like to thank my Medical Practitioner colleagues for their help in this aspect of the work.

108 houses were included in the five year slum clearance programme submitted to the Ministry in 1955. Up to 31st December, 1958, 47 of these had been dealt with.

Eight caravans were licensed during the year. Caravans are not satisfactory abodes in which to bring up children, but so long as there is a shortage of houses their use as homes will inevitably continue. Facing up to this fact of life surely there is an overwhelming case for revision of caravan and caravan site legislation which is so complex and equivocal as to permit little realistic control? The diarchy of Public Health and Town and Country Planning law does not make for good Government. Under the former the period during which a moveable dwelling can remain without a licence is 42 consecutive days or 60 days in any 12 months. Whereas the equivalent period under planning legislation is 28 days in total. I submit that the 28 day period should be the maximum permitted under either regime.

Also the period within which the Local Authority is required to make a decision on an application for a Public Health Act licence should be extended to two months as in planning legislation. If for any reason there has not been a decision at the end of two months, it should be deemed to have been refused and not granted. If a time limit were applicable to caravan site licences as well as caravan licences instead of their being granted in perpetuity it would permit of better control.

There are close on a quarter of a million people making their homes in caravans in the country, so this facet of Health legislation touches many who own and very many more who live

side by side with moveable dwellings and so it is surely worth bringing the law out of the archaic shadows. It is equally time that legal standards should be made in respect of permitted numbers, separation of the sexes and other features which are applicable to every other type of accommodation not excepting a canal boat.

In a year in which the Bank Rate was for a time at 7 per cent. it was inevitable that there would be a moratorium on any ambitious building schemes, and dear money found its reflection in the fact that only 9 bungalows were built compared with the twelve flats of the previous year. On the other hand private enterprise increased their score from 15 to 19. One can see from the large number of applicants on the Council's waiting list that there is a very big demand for houses in the town, quite apart from staring into the crystal ball for an indication as to whether it will eventually become a reception area for the surplus population from Birmingham or London.

177 Council houses are without hot water systems and of these six have no baths either.

There is no decrease in the need for accommodation for the elderly, the lonely single person and the individual with failing physical resources. That the grouped elderly persons bungalows with a warden in charge is a very practicable solution of their needs is unquestionable.

In general why should accommodation for Elderly Persons only attract a grant if no provision is made for their occupants to have a friend to stay with them when they are well or for someone to live in and nurse them when they are sick? A second bedroom or bedroom annexe is taboo. It seems anomalous when geriatric beds in hospitals are so difficult to obtain and a vacancy in Welfare accommodation no easier to acquire. Furthermore one day—far distant maybe—this same accommodation might conceivably be wanted for newly weds.

Since the War, great advances have been made in Bourne on the Housing Front but much ground has still to be covered before the campaign is won and all who want them have homes of their own.

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

The Council's Slaughterhouse serves the town well and also further afield. Both there and at the two privately owned slaughterhouses a 100 per cent. Meat Inspection is maintained so long as the Health Inspector is on duty. It has not always been easy to arrange complete relief for him in his duties.



The better standard of requirements for slaughterhouse premises and for the handling and storage of meat provided for in the Slaughterhouse Hygiene Regulations of 1958, are clearly welcomed. Provision was made also for the compulsory staining of condemned meat to preclude the possibility of its improper disposal. By some schizo-phrenic mechanism this was revoked before it ever had a chance to be tried and why this retrogressive action was taken is extremely baffling.

The Code of Practice outlined in the Food Hygiene Regulations for all engaged in the food business is almost universally observed, but the open market stall with all its inherent shortcomings requires constant vigilance.

During the year, with the close co-operation of the growers many watercress samples were taken and experiments tried. These showed that while it was a practical impossibility to prevent the contamination of the water in which the cress grows and therefore of the cress itself, this could be overcome by immersing the cut cress in a weak hypochlorite solution prior to its despatch. This procedure has now been accepted as the best method of ensuring the bacteriological integrity of this valuable source of vitamins and minerals.

During the year the Chief Inspector of Weights and Measures of the County Council, Mr. Hawley, took 22 samples under the provisions of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955. I would like to thank him for his continuing generous help.

Apricots (dried) .....	1	Lemon Curd .....	1
Condensed Milk .....	1	Milk .....	10
Cream .....	1	Orange Wine .....	1
Raspberry Jam .....	1	Saccharin Tablets .....	1
Salad Cream .....	1	Soft drinks .....	4

All the samples on analytical examination proved satisfactory. The average of the milk samples showed 3.4 per cent. of butter fat and 8.89 per cent. of other solids, considerably better than the statutory minima of 3 per cent. and 8.5 per cent. respectively.

In the case of the Cream, this contained 52 per cent. of butter fat which was 4 per cent. above the standard figure.

In years gone by Bourne Waters were sold over a wide area. To-day the same waters are the basis of a local industry, and all four samples of soft drinks were found to be satisfactory.

## NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT

No action, fortunately, was found necessary under the provisions of Section 47 of the Act.

## HEALTH EDUCATION

Use was again made of the posters and publications produced by the Central Council for Health Education to which the Council subscribes. It is, however, the dissipation of the practical applications of the theoretical rules for better health and its safeguards which ultimately has the most effect on the public. Who better achieves this than the Health Inspector in his contacts with all sections of the Community and in all the facets of his work from Housing inspections to Rodent control, and from supervision of Market stalls, to the follow-up of infectious disease in the home?

An unusual but disturbing incident occurred when a beast was admitted to a knacker's yard and subsequently was discovered to have died of Anthrax. Two men who had handled the carcass prior to this discovery were both given prophylactic treatment. A small child who had gone out in the vehicle which went to collect the animal was suspect also. It proved for him an eventful ride fortunately without untoward consequences.

I wish to thank the Chairmen and Members of the Council and the Health Committee for their abiding interest and support in the work of the Health Department. I wish to thank Mr. Brown for his generous help and loyalty at all times, also Mr. Reeson and all my fellow colleagues on the Staff for their assistance throughout the year.

In conclusion I again voice my appreciation to Dr. Galletly for so kindly standing by for me during my Annual holiday and I am sure I may be permitted to express the Council's also.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Tipler and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

H. ELLIS SMITH,

Medical Officer of Health.



# ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1958

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To the Chairman and Members of the  
Bourne Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Tipler and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Report for the year 1958  
as follows.

## Housing

Of the 108 dwellings included in the Council's Slum Clearance Programme, 42 have so far been subjected to Orders for demolition or closure and 4 of 5 dwellings subject to undertakings have been saved by renovation. In addition, during 1958, the Hereward-street No. 1 Bourne Clearance Area comprising 13 houses was declared; these houses are among the worst situated and most badly congested in the town but the Council's action received an unusual amount of criticism and a local enquiry is pending. The Council does not pursue a ruthless course in the execution of its scheme and the usual full consideration that is given to these matters resulted in the cottages Nos. 3—23 St. Peter's-road being referred for consideration for possible modernisation for selected tenancies.



Thus a total of 70 of the scheduled dwellings have received some attention to date.

A further 3 unfit houses not included in the programme were closed and the occupants of 20 unfit dwellings found healthy and comfortable homes. Seven single persons, mainly pensioners, remained outstanding for rehousing from unfit dwellings but further bungalow development will provide some relief very shortly.

Two Rent Act certificates relating to disrepair were issued but it is still usual to find tenants and landlords unwilling to take advantage of this Act for fear of counter repair or rent 'reprisals.'

The Council gave a lead to landlords by the acquisition and modernisation of 18 Woodview houses but any real progress in the improvement of privately-owned rented dwellings will stem only from grant-aided but compulsory modernisation.

Eleven part-annual licences were issued in respect of eight caravans; two refusals to licence were issued, one as a result of the development of overcrowded and unwholesome conditions and it is good to report that this family now enjoys the amenities of a conventional dwelling. Nationally, much importance is attached to **planning** restriction of caravans, based generally on the social character of the community neighbouring the proposed sites; more important would seem **health** regulation based on a realistic standard having a relationship with that obtaining for conventional dwellings and directed at promoting a healthy environment both within and surrounding the caravan home.

#### A. INSPECTION OF HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

1	(a)	Houses inspected for defects ... ..	106
	(b)	Inspections for the purpose ... ..	219
2	(a)	Houses rendered fit as a result of informal action ... ..	31
	(b)	Houses rendered fit after formal action under the Public Health Act, 1936 ... ..	23
3	(a)	Houses subjected to demolition ... ..	3
	(b)	Houses subjected to closure ... ..	3

#### B. OVERCROWDING.

1	(a)	Houses overcrowded at year's end ... ..	1
	(b)	Families concerned ... ..	1
	(c)	Number of persons concerned ... ..	8
2	(a)	Cases of overcrowding relieved ... ..	1
	(b)	Number of persons concerned ... ..	5

#### Food

Routine work in connection with the examination of food and premises continues a necessity as food hygiene unfortunately still has to be **enforced** in many establishments. It was necessary during the year to publicly draw attention to the prevalence of smoking by food handlers. The open-air market stalls remain little changed from the medieval circumstances from which they are derived and from which some of them show little progress and constant attention is necessary to ensure observance of the minimal requirements of the law and rational opinion. The watercress beds of which there are four were investigated for the second time in recent years. These man-made beds are served by artesian bores. The desirability of introducing germicidal treatment of the final packed produce was fully investigated with the indispensable

assistance of the P.H. Laboratory Service bearing in mind the implications of such bacteriological investigations into salad produce; one nursery successfully introduced a final hypochlorination treatment. Salmonellae struck again in the warmer months; respiratory tuberculous infection arose. Either of these infections could have arisen in food handlers and there seems ample justification for demanding the periodic chest x-ray and examination of rectal swabs with local authority certification constituting a passport to employment in some sections of the food industry.

Food businesses operating in the area are as follows:—

SHOPS		OTHERS	
Butchers .....	8	Slaughterhouses .....	3
General provisions .....	17	School canteens, etc. ....	6
Wet fish .....	2	Market stalls .....	9
Fried fish .....	3	Public houses .....	17
Cake confectionery .....	3	Bakehouses.....	4
Sweet confectionery ....	12	Restaurants, cafes .....	4
Fruit and vegetable ...	5	Miscellaneous .....	17

In addition, numbers of butchers', bakers', ice-cream and general provision vans trade here from outside the District.

23 premises are registered in accordance with Section 16, Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

Minor consignments of unfit foodstuffs consisting of 60 lbs. of canned meat, 23 lbs. of canned fruit and vegetables, 40 lbs. of dried currants and 30 lbs. of miscellaneous foods were all, unlike unfit meat, destroyed. On one occasion the discovery and seizure of unfit old chocolate stock resulted from the prompt advice of a consumer; such public-spirited action is unfortunately rare.

**Milk.**—The District is included in a specified area and as such receives only designated milk from its five retailers who purvey pasteurised, tuberculin tested (pasteurised), sterilised and farm-bottled Channel Island and ordinary tuberculin tested milk. Eight samples representative of these supplies satisfied statutory tests, bearing testimony to the efficacy of heat treatment and cleanliness of milk production; a constant shortage of laboratory facilities precluded effective sampling for biological examination but the one sample of raw milk so examined proved non-tuberculous. The use of a dirty milk bottle resulted in a strong warning being issued; whilst dairies are not without blame in matters like this, the public could help by not misusing the milk bottle.

**Ice-cream.**—There are no manufacturers of this commodity in the District and supplies are obtained from the three national suppliers and one County firm. Ice-lollies continue in increasing popularity but local manufacture has virtually ceased in favour of the greater variety and quality of major brands. Eight samples all proved satisfactory to existing standards.

**Meat.**—The supervision of meat supplies and the examination of animals and carcasses continues to absorb much attention and rightly so for it is an essential part of preventive medicine and in the one branch of tuberculosis alone, is playing its small but necessary rôle in the gradual eradication of this disease. The influence of attestation schemes and compulsory boiling of certain animal feeding stuffs, principally affecting the feeding of pigs, was noticed in the slaughterhouses where post-mortem examination revealed a progressive reduction in the incidence of bovine tuberculosis in beasts and tuberculosis in pigs was uncommon. In the light of these facts it is doubly exasperating to observe the present freedom in disposal of knackers yards meat.



The Slaughterhouses (Hygiene) Regulations 1958 were issued at the end of the year and, if conscientiously adhered to, will do much to reduce the risk of contamination of meat and also enhance keeping qualities. The Regulations place emphasis upon the sanitary construction of premises and equipment and the conduct of operations. As with hygiene in the remainder of the food industry, expenditure on premises and equipment will be of little use without the full understanding of slaughtering employees and with this in mind, I feel that the trade should give consideration to an overhaul of the method of training future slaughterhouse staff.

Difficulty arose in the matter of relief meat inspection services but, once again the inspectors of the neighbouring authorities kindly filled the breach; these officers have considerable commitments of their own and other arrangements for the future are desirable.



Post-mortem and, wherever possible, anti-mortem examination of the following animals was carried out at the three slaughterhouses operated by Messrs. Ewles, Messrs. Mays and the Council.

Bulls	Steers	Heifers	Cows	Calves	Sheep
3	1,226	200	312	41	3,936
		Pigs	Horses		
		2,137	255		

The increased incidence of fascioliasis in sheep and beasts continued and in the latter this was not generally confined to animals of Irish origin and produced some shortage of fresh beef liver in the last quarter.

	Cattle Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed ... ..	1433	312	41	3949	2139	255
Number examined ... ..	1429	312	41	3936	2137	255
All diseases except Tuberculosis :						
(a) Whole carcasses condemned ... ..	19	32	11	51	5	6
(b) Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	304	12	—	118	145	52
Percentage of number examined affected with disease other than Tuberculosis ... ..	22.60	14.10	26.83	4.29	7.01	22.74
Tuberculosis :						
(a) Whole carcasses condemned ... ..	10	24	3	—	9	1
(b) Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	75	16	—	—	44	1
Percentage of number examined affected with Tuberculosis ... ..	5.95	12.82	7.31	—	2.48	.78
Cysticercosis						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ... ..	4	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	4	—	—	—	—	—

In addition, 95 animals were regarded as unfit as a result of some condition not necessarily related to specific disease, e.g.: multiple injuries, medicinal taint, etc.

The total weight of meat and offal found to be unfit for human consumption was: .

Meat			Offal		
27 tons	12cwts.	46 lbs.	6 tons	1 cwt.	104 lbs.

and this sometimes highly infectious material continued to be disposed of to the local knackers yard where it joined similar material for further distribution in an unmarked and unsterilised state. The local knackers yard and processing plant have undergone considerable alteration and improvement to replace the existing poor premises and are due to be operating in 1959.

Nine slaughtermen were licensed, two for the slaughter of horses which has reduced in recent years.

506 pigs were presented for certification for subsidy in accordance with the Fatstock Guarantee Scheme.

### **Infectious diseases**

109 notifiable cases were visited and appropriate disinfection services rendered where necessary. Control over the spread of some of the children's infectious diseases is difficult as many children appear to be less affected by and show mild symptoms if any disability although unfortunately continuing to act as sources of infection to others, some of whom are more susceptible.

By far the most important outbreak during the year occurred in the late Spring when there were a number of cases affected with salmonella typhi-murium. The 11 cases involved 15 families and investigations spread over a considerable period with 64 swabs being examined in the process. Fortunately, all the households were blessed with modern amenities promoting reasonable ease in the observance of clean personal conduct and the outbreak was confined, largely due to the prompt notification and the considerable help and interest of the doctors concerned.

Dealers in rags and old clothes who occasionally visit the district defy the law prohibiting gifts to children by using gift-filled plastic bags which they affix to house doors for the purpose of barter; the bags are addressed to the householder but in the main the gifts are clearly intended for children. These bags have been seen affixed to houses accommodating infectious diseases. No lasting co-operation has resulted from representations to the dealers.

### **Water supplies**

Bourne, Dyke, Twenty and Spalding Road are largely served by mains water from Bourne. The remainder of the population is served by private artesian bores and nine samples of some of these independent supplies all proved of excellent quality on bacteriological examination. One supply was found unsuitable nevertheless because of abnormal taste and the necessary steps were taken to remedy it.



## Swimming pool

The bacterial quality of the pool's water was generally maintained at a satisfactory level and eight of the nine samples submitted to the laboratory during the season proved good. Excessive algal growths have always been a characteristic of this pool and whilst the matter is largely an aesthetic one, it is a pity that this otherwise pleasant recreational amenity is so spoiled; the owners have been given advice on the matter but have yet to act.

## WORKPLACES

**Factories.**—The following schedule gives account of the work undertaken in this direction during the year:—

	No. on Register	Inspections	Notices
Factories without mechanical power ...	10	16	2
Factories in which S.7 only is enforced in Part I ... ..	44	49	—
Other premises in which S.7 is enforced	8	5	2

Five defective or unsuitable sanitary conveniences received remedial attention as also did one unclean workshop and some obstructed fire exits. Particular regard was paid to means of escape in the winter months as many tend to become obstructed with makeshift draught-excluders. The sanitary accommodation provided for building operatives on site work continues to be somewhat primitive.

**Shops.**—42 shops were visited; it was necessary to refer a case to the Magistrates Court to remedy the absence of a W.C. One minor sanitary defect was repaired and a complaint concerning inadequate heating in a drapers proved unjustified.

### Pest control

Apart from the usual attention to rodent control, the operator dealt with a number of difficult wasp colonies. Autumn surveys of the District revealed some excessive rat infestations of open farmland and it became apparent that the position merited special attention if the infestations were not to become serious in some parts of the area. The Council undertook as much re-chargeable contract work on the farm as its limited resources permitted as the facilities of the Agricultural Executive Committee Pest Control Service have ceased and a considerable amount of co-ordinative work was necessary among the 78 agricultural units. Mild weather, combine-harvesting and following sugar beet crops provided inducement to rats to stay in the fields and winter concentration was not experienced—in fact there was no problem in the

urban areas. One sewer maintenance treatment was carried out and of 179 properties inspected as a result of survey or complaint, 56 were treated for rats or mice. Pigeons continue to prove unpopular in the centre of the town. The most effective methods of eradicating these pests are illegal. The degree of nuisance from damage and filth associated with these birds is not slight and some relaxation of the restrictions governing their control is justified.

### **Sewerage**

Apart from the completion of the North-street re-sewering, the major part of the new sewage disposal works was completed and this installation is due for full operation early in 1959. The sewerage of Dyke was also commenced towards the end of the year and this village will soon see the last of its 52 domestic vault, bucket and chemical closets give way to the benefit of the convenience for which it has waited so long. The cemetery was equipped with modern sanitation but, whilst the Council appreciates the need for proper washing facilities in the public conveniences in the town, the stupid vandalism experienced in these establishments has so far acted as a deterrent and the majority of the public continue to be denied this desirable amenity.

The Central Council for Health Education and the Ministries continue to furnish improving publicity and education matter in various forms and the greatest possible use is made of the displays provided as they are regarded as an important part of the Authority's work.

The interest, support and encouragement which I was given by the Members of the Council throughout the year was so very valuable and appreciated as also was the great help so readily available from my colleagues.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Tipler and Gentlemen,

Yours respectfully,

L. W. BROWN,

Public Health Inspector.



